IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 3-15, and 18-31 and enter new claims 32-46 as shown in the following complete listing:

1-31. (cancelled)

32. (new) A process for preparing a supported catalyst which comprises:

a) preparing a hydrogel;

b) milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;

c) producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;

d) drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;

e) applying a first treatment compound comprising chromium or a chromium-containing compound to the support, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and

f) optionally, activating the supported catalyst,

wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:

- at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from > 0 μm to ≤ 3 μm; and
- at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from > 0 μm to ≤ 12 μm, and
- at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from > 0 μm to ≤ 35 μm.

33. (new) The process of claim **32**, wherein the supported catalyst is activated by at least one of:

a) halogenation,

b) thermal activation at 400°C to 1000°C in an oxidizing, reducing and/or neutral atmosphere, and

c) renewed thermal activation at 400°C to 1000°C in a reducing atmosphere.

34. (new) A supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim **32**.

35. (new) The supported catalyst of claim **34** wherein the chromium content is from 0.1% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the supported catalyst.

36. (new) A process which comprises polymerizing or copolymerizing olefins with a supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim **32**.

37. (new) The process of claim **36** wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one activator compound.

38. (new) The process of claim **36** wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is carried out as a suspension process.

39. (new) The process of claim **38** wherein the supported catalyst has a mean particle size in the range from 30 μm to 350 μm.

40. (new) A process for preparing a supported catalyst which comprises:

a) preparing a hydrogel;

b) milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;

c) producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;

d) drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;

e) applying a first treatment compound comprising a metallocene compound to the support, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and

f) optionally, activating the supported catalyst,

wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:

- at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from > 0 μm to ≤ 3 μm; and
- at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from > 0 μm to ≤ 12 μm, and
- at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from > 0 μm to ≤ 35 μm.

41. (new) The process of claim **40** wherein the metallocene compound comprises a transition metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Cr, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn and Pd.

42. (new) A supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim **40**.

43. (new) A process which comprises polymerizing or copolymerizing olefins with the supported catalyst of claim **42**.

44. (new) The process of claim **43** wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is a gas-phase fluidized-bed process and the supported catalyst has a mean particle size in the range from 30 μm to 300 μm.

45. (new) The process of claim **43** wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one organometallic compound.

46. (new) The process of claim **45** wherein the organometallic compound comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Zn and Si.